

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. MIKE PARKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to remind my colleagues of a very important day approaching—the National Day of Prayer to be observed on Thursday, May 4. Around this great country, people of all ages, race, and social standing will join together on Thursday to give thanks for the blessings they have received. In addition, they will offer up prayers for our Nation and the suffering we have recently endured. We certainly have much to be thankful for but we also have much to seek divine guidance about.

Although this body will not be in formal session on Thursday, I hope that my colleagues in their own personal way will observe the National Day of Prayer—a tradition since Congress passed a resolution in 1952.

In addition, I commend Wanda Kay Wigley for making the Mississippi National Day of Prayer a priority in our State.

RECOGNITION OF WALTER LUCIANO

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this body is the opportunity we occasionally get to recognize publicly outstanding citizens of our Nation. Today I am especially pleased to speak about so worthy and respected an individual. I rise today to recognize Mr. Walter Luciano.

On a local level, Mr. Luciano is involved in a number of organizations. He works for the parks department as a law enforcement officer. He is well known in Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol [GCOP] as patrol captain and as an active board member. Mr. Luciano is also an auxiliary member of the Middle Village Ambulance Corps.

Mr. Luciano, who held a reserve commission in the New York Army National Guard for almost 23 years of service was recently retired with the rank of captain due to downsizing of his unit. He now serves in the Retired Reserve. His commitment to serving this Nation is truly admirable; he is a model of how responsible citizens can help make their neighborhoods and their country safe.

Additionally, Mr. Luciano has been noted in the local papers of Bayridge, and the New York Daily News for his truancy program and his involvement with the New York City Board of Education's Speaker in the Classroom Program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending

Mr. Luciano for his dedicated service. He is truly an inspiration to us all.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I just want to make 3 points: one to my colleagues, one to the Chinese Government, and one to the administration.

I simply would remind my colleagues that this administration has actually done more than any of the previous administrations with respect to elevating its relationship with Taiwan. This is the first administration which has allowed high-level members of its Government to visit Taiwan. This is the administration that signed legislation last year passed by this Congress to allow Taiwanese-Americans to list Taiwan as their place of birth on passports, and in a whole variety of levels it has enhanced that cooperation.

To the Chinese Government, I simply remind that Government, we have many differences. Both the gentlewoman from California and the gentleman from California have spoken to those differences.

However, in and of itself the passage of this resolution does not speak to the question of whether our policy should be a one-China policy or a two-China policy or one China and one Taiwan policy. It deals very specifically with the question of President Lee making an informal visit, and it should not be construed in any other fashion.

The third point is to the administration. I think you will see, by virtue of the unanimity of feeling on this subject in the Congress, that this issue will not simply go away, that it will not end with a passage of a sense of Congress resolution, and that legislation will be coming that will seek to mandate this visit if the administration's policy does not change. I urge them to reconsider this aspect of their policy.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 19, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The House recently completed 100 days of action on the leadership's 10-point Contract with America, taking up and passing measures ranging from legal and congressional reforms to a balanced budget amendment.

Despite all the attention to the Contract in Washington, I have been impressed in a number of public meetings in Indiana that the Contract only rarely comes up for discussion. Most people know very little of its provisions. For those who do, many support the major elements of the Contract but also say that the House leadership has tried to do too much too quickly. Still others see Congress as operating under the "politics as usual" rules, criticize the spending cuts, or disagree with cutting taxes before balancing the budget.

SUMMARY

Crafted last fall, the Contract with America was organized into 10 major planks, plus a prologue making procedural changes in the House. The promise was to bring all of the items up for a vote within 100 days. All passed the House except the constitutional amendment limiting congressional terms. Some of the measures passed by the House—such as the balanced budget amendment and welfare reform—differed in significant ways from the versions outlined in the Contract. The Senate has not yet acted on most of the Contract, although it did defeat the balanced budget amendment. Only two parts of the Contract have become law—requiring Congress to comply with the laws it passes for everyone else and reducing unfunded federal mandates.

As it has turned out, the Contract is really a starting point for negotiations. It is clear to me that the raw and unrefined bills, passed by the House will be softened by the Senate, or may be even stopped. Even after surgery by the Senate, some Contract initiatives face possible presidential vetoes. Which parts of the Contract will eventually become law is far from clear.

I voted for several parts of the Contract and opposed others. The House first took action, with my support, to cut the number of committees and congressional staff and to require Congress to live by the laws it passes. These proposals were similar to legislation I sponsored last session based on the work of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. I also voted for a balanced budget amendment, a version of the line-item veto, curbs on federal mandates on the states, and restrictions on excessive government regulations, among other measures. I did not support certain other provisions, including a bill that would restrict individuals' Fourth Amendment protections against government searches, a term limits proposal that would kick in some 19 years from now, and an expensive tax cut—largely for the

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